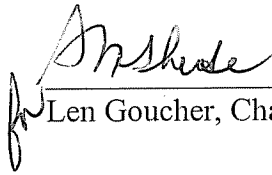


**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**



for Len Goucher, Chair, North West Community Council

**DATE:** December 19, 2002

**SUBJECT:** The Barrens, Bedford

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**ORIGIN**

- February 26, 2002 meeting of Regional Council;
- March 22, 2002 letter from Minister L. Fage NS Department of Natural Resources; and
- December 9, 2002 meeting of North West Community Council.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**It is recommended that Regional Council:**

**Urge the Province of Nova Scotia to complete the land purchases necessary to protect the Bedford Barrens Petroglyphs and establish a management committee.**

## **BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION**

On February 26, 2002 Halifax Regional Council approved a recommendation of North West Community Council (see attached report of January 29, 2002) to inquire of the Province of plans to acquire all privately held lands in the Barrens area. Minister Fage, in a letter dated March 22, 2002, replied the Province has “*had continuing discussions with Mr. James Reardon, who is owner of several inholding parcels about the possibility of acquiring some or all of the lands.*”

During the approval process for **Case 00446: Development Agreement for lands between Nottingham and Basinview, Bedford**, Community Council was provided with a recommendation from the North West Planning Advisory Committee that the Province be urged to complete the land purchases necessary to protect the Bedford Barrens Petroglyphs and establish a management committee (see Map 1). It was stated the Province should create a commission to oversee the protection of the Barrens and the interpretation of the Petroglyphs. Membership should include representation from Halifax Regional Municipality, area residents, the Aboriginal Community the Province, and the Government of Canada.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

None

## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN**

This report complies with the Municipality’s Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation

## **ALTERNATIVES**

Council could either approve the motion from Community Council, which is the recommended course of action, or decide on another course of action.

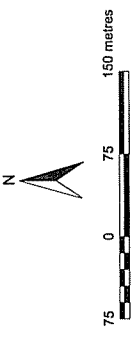
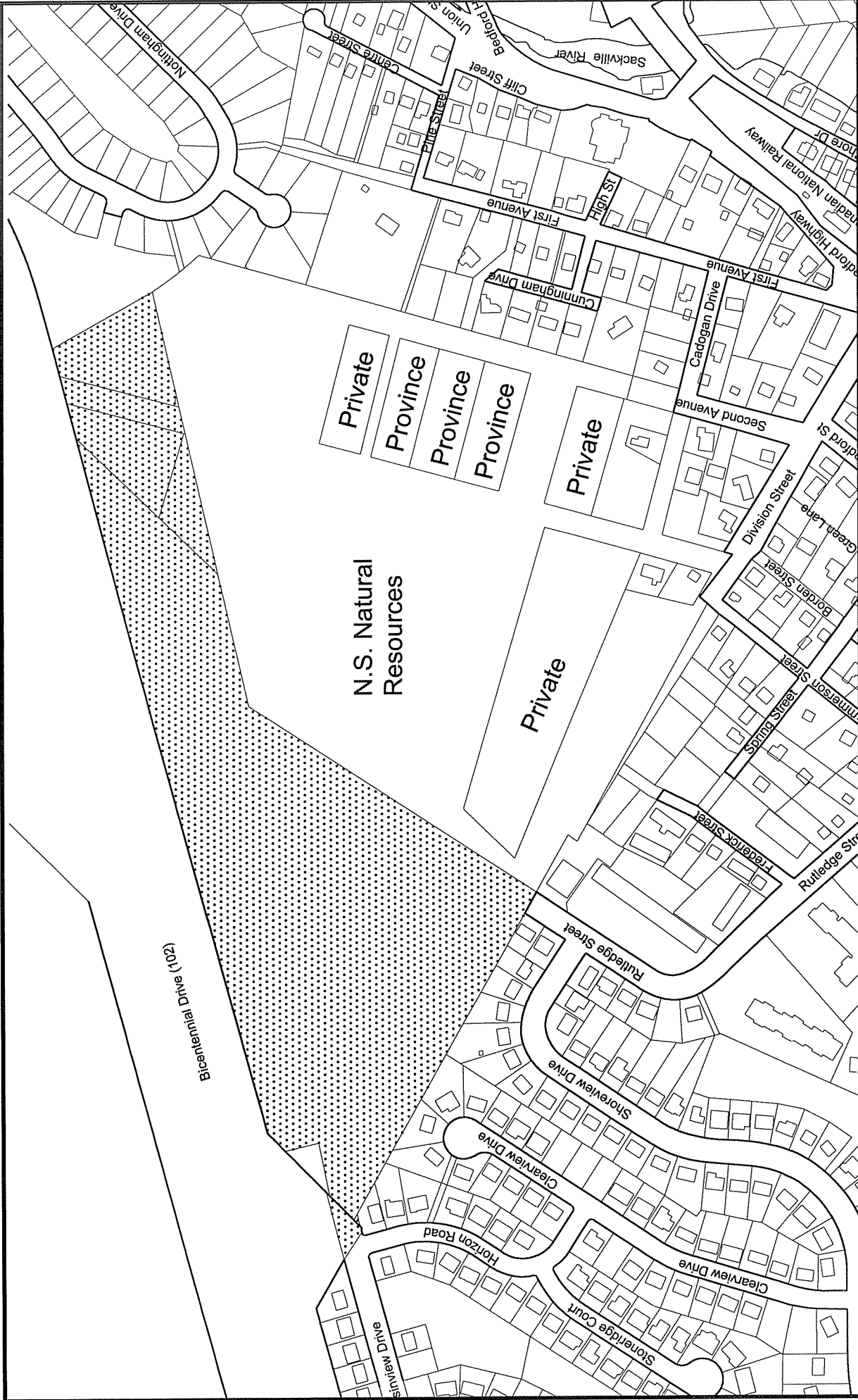
## **ATTACHMENTS**

Map 1: Private Lands in the Barrens area


Attachment A: Report of January 29, 2002 of the North West Community Council

Attachment B: Letter of March 22, 2002 from Minister Fage of the NS Department of Natural Resources.

Further information regarding the contents of this report may be obtained by contacting (Angus Schaffenburg, Planner II) at 490-4495. Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.



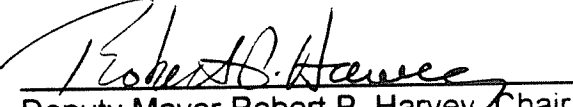
Map 1 Private Lands in Barrens Area

 Area of Case 00446

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HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL  
FEBRUARY 19, 2002

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

FROM:   
Deputy Mayor Robert P. Harvey, Chair  
North West Community Council

DATE: January 29, 2002

SUBJECT: **The Barrens, Bedford**

---

**ORIGIN:**

North West Community Council meeting held on January 24, 2002.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that Regional Council:

1. Inquire of the Province re the Orders in Council referred to in the attached Memorandum dated January 4, 2002;
2. Inquire of the Minister of Heritage Canada re the status of the plans for a trilingual plaque at the Barrens site;
3. Inquire of the Province re plans to acquire all privately owned lands in the Barrens area; and
4. Forward this matter to HRM's Heritage Advisory Committee.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Memorandum dated January 4, 2002 - Recommendation from North West Planning Advisory Committee  
Map of Remaining Undeveloped Barrens July, 1992

North West Community Council  
January 24, 2002

**TO:** North West Community Council  
**SUBMITTED BY:** Gail Harnish  
Gail Harnish, Admin\PAC Coordinator  
**DATE:** January 4, 2002  
**SUBJECT:** "The Barrens"

---

**ORIGIN:**

North West Planning Advisory Committee - January 2, 2002

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The North West Planning Advisory Committee recommend:

WHEREAS that natural and undeveloped area of Bedford known as "The Barrens" has been a place of passive recreation for generations of Bedford residents, and a seasonal camping place for Native people before the growth of settlement in Bedford;

AND WHEREAS a survey of the Barrens in the early 1990s by Dr. Brian Molyneaux confirmed the existence of authentic Mi'kmaq petroglyphs on this land;

AND WHEREAS fourteen Chiefs of the Mi'kmaq Nation signed a four point declaration recognizing the significance of this land to their people and requiring its protection because it... is a site having inalienable cultural, spiritual and historical significance to the Mi'kmaq Nation;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Nova Scotia has placed this site under the Special Places Protection Act;

AND WHEREAS the, then, Minister of Heritage Canada, Michel Dupuy, welcomed "the Bedford Petroglyphs to Canada's family of national historic sites;"

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Cabinet passed Orders-in-Council re: The Barrens;

AND WHEREAS Bedford has become a community of subdivisions connected by three main highways and a community where family recreation is valued;

AND WHEREAS we are a multicultural people with an obligation to acknowledge and encourage the preservation of all cultures including that of our Native people;

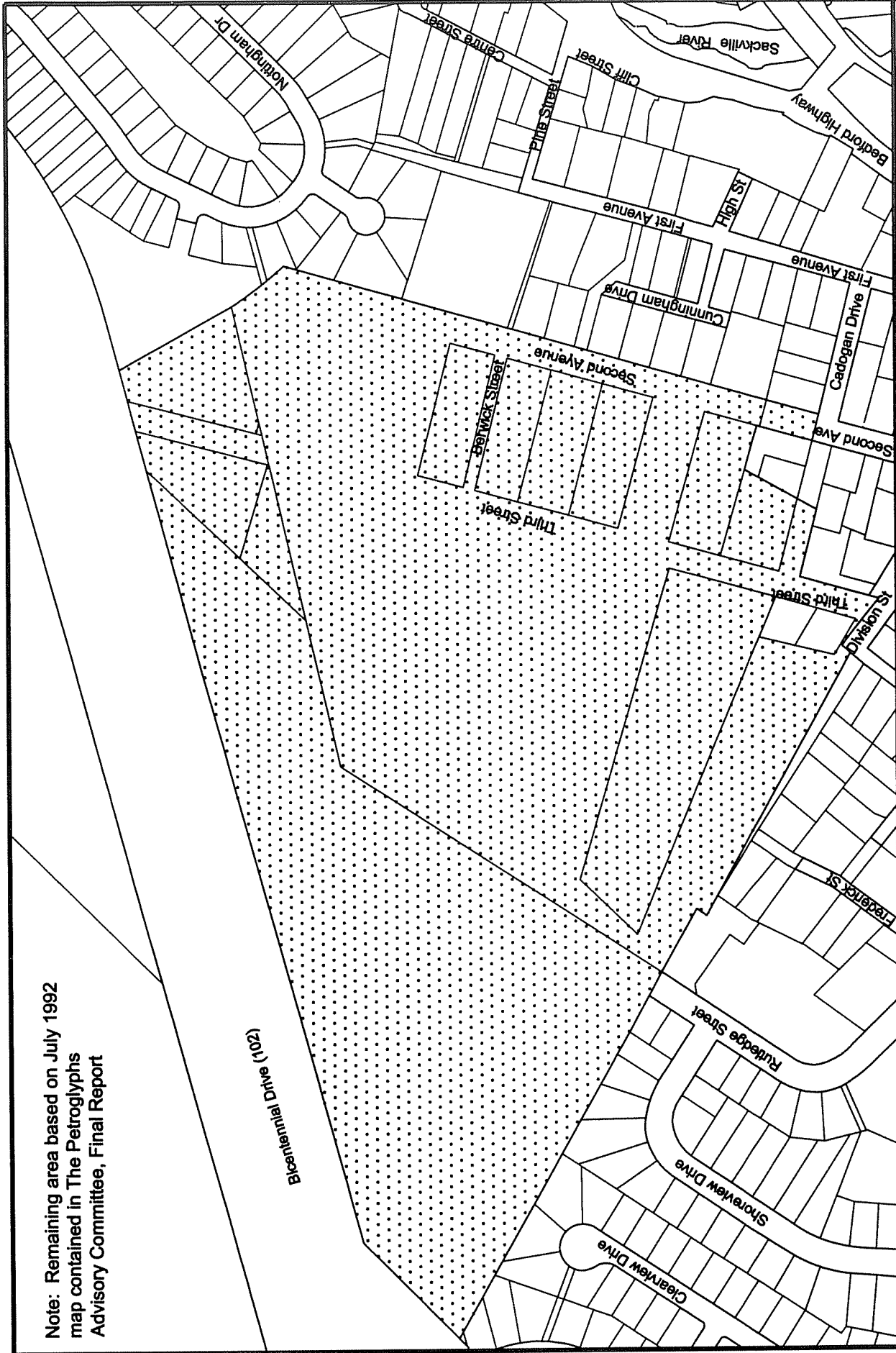
AND WHEREAS there is a growing need for green space and natural urban parks to maintain and improve air quality;

AND WHEREAS the Bedford Shaman Wilderness Initiative, registered under the Societies Act, remains ready to work with all for the care and preservation of the site.

BE IT MOVED, THEREFORE, that North West Community Council request of HRM Council that they:

- (1) Enquire of the Province re: the above noted Orders-in-Council;
- (2) Enquire of the Minister of Heritage Canada re: the status of the plans for a trilingual plaque at the site as referenced in the Minister's letter dated 16/2/95;
- (3) Enquire of the Province re: plans to acquire all privately owned lands in this land; and
- (4) Forward the matter to HRM's Heritage Advisory Committee.

Note: Remaining area based on July 1992 map contained in The Petroglyphs Advisory Committee, Final Report



Map 1  
Remaining Undeveloped Barrons



Department of Natural Resources  
Office of the Minister

PO Box 698  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 2T9

Bus 902 424-4037  
Fax 902 424-0594

Feb 26/02  
8.2-Council

Our File Number: **Attachment B**

March 22, 2002

MUNICIPAL CLERK'S OFFICE  
Distributed to: J.O'Brien  
Mayor, Councilors, CAO, D. English  
Solicitor A. Schaffenburg  
April 3/02  
DATE

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY  
APR 2 2002  
MUNICIPAL CLERK

Ms. Vi Carmichael  
Municipal Clerk  
Halifax Regional Municipality  
PO Box 1749  
Halifax NS B3J 3A5

Dear Ms. Carmichael:

**RE: Bedford Barrens**

I write in reply to your March 1, 2002, letter.

In the early 1990's the Province of Nova Scotia acquired, in several transactions, lands in the Bedford Barrens area, which are now consolidated into PID # 40648883. Four separate Orders in Council were issued authorizing these transactions, as is required by the *Crown Lands Act*.

We have had continuing discussions with Mr. James Reardon, who is the owner of several inholding parcels, about the possibility of acquiring some or all of his lands. These discussions did not result in the acquisition of the Reardon lands. A major stumbling block seems to be the resolution of issues Mr. Reardon has with the Municipality, formerly the Town of Bedford, concerning streets and access to his property.

I hope this information is useful.

Yours sincerely,

Ernest L. Fage  
Minister

cc Honourable David Morse  
Honourable Peter Christie  
Councillor Len G oucher, District 21-Bedford